English Poems

Elegy (/poems/thomas-gray-elegy)

Thomas Gray (/authors/thomas-gray)

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day;
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea;
The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;

Save that, from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r,
The moping owl does to the moon complain
Of such, as wand'ring near her secret bow'r,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Tags: Poems about death (/tags/poems-about-death) Philosophical poem (/tags/philosophical-poem)

Had I the Choice (/poems/walt-whitman-had-i-the-choice)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

Had I the choice to tally greatest bards,
To trim their portraits, stately, beautiful, and emulate at will,
Homer with all his wars and warriors—Hector, Achilles, Ajax,
Or Shakspere's woe-entangled Hamlet, Lear, Othello—Tennyson's fair ladies,
Metre or wit the best, or choice conceit to wield in perfect rhyme, delight of singers;
These, these, O sea, all these I'd gladly barter,
Would you the undulation of one wave, its trick to me transfer,
Or breathe one breath of yours upon my verse,
And leave its odor there.

Tags:
Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about bards (/tags/poems-about-bards) Greatest poets (/tags/greatest-poets)

On the Beach at Night (/poems/walt-whitman-on-the-beach-at-night)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

On the beach at night,
Stands a child with her father,
Watching the east, the autumn sky.

Up through the darkness,
While ravening clouds, the burial clouds, in black masses spreading,
Lower sullen and fast athwart and down the sky,
Amid a transparent clear belt of ether yet left in the east,
Ascends large and calm the lord-star Jupiter,
And nigh at hand, only a very little above,
Swim the delicate sisters the Pleiades.

Tags:
Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about stars (/tags/poems-about-stars) Poems about sea (/tags/poems-about-sea) Nature (/tags/nature)

Europe, The 72d and 73d Years of These States (/poems/walt-whitman-europe-the-72d-and-73d-years-of-these-states)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

Suddenly out of its stale and drowsy lair, the lair of slaves,
Like lightning it lit'pit forth, half startled at itself,
Its feet upon the ashes and the rags—its hands tight
to the throats of kings.

O hope and faith!
O aching close of exiled patriots' lives!
O many a sickened heart!
Turn back unto this day, and make yourselves afresh.

Tags:
Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about Europe (/tags/poems-about-europe) Poems about revolution (/tags/poems-about-revolution) Death (/tags/death)

O You Whom I Often and Silently Come (/poems/walt-whitman-o-you-whom-i-often-and-silently-come)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

O YOU whom I often and silently come where you are that I may
be with you,
As I walk by your side or sit near, or remain in the same room
with you,
Little you know the subtle electric fire that for your sake is playing within me.

Tags:
Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about love (/tags/poems-about-love) Unrequited Love (/tags/unrequited-love)

To a Foil'd European Revolutionaire (/poems/walt-whitman-to-a-foil%E2%80%99d-european-revolutionaire)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

Courage yet, my brother or my sister!
Keep on—Liberty is to be subserv'd whatever occurs;
That is nothing that is quell'd by one or two failures, or any
number of failures,
Or by the indifference or ingratitude of the people, or by any
unfaithfulness,
Or the show of the tushes of power, soldiers, cannon, penal statutes.

Tags:
Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about revolution (/tags/poems-about-revolution) Europe (/tags/europe) Liberty (/tags/liberty)

A Song of Joys (/poems/walt-whitman-a-song-of-joys)

Walt Whitman (/authors/walt-whitman)

O to make the most jubilant song!
Full of music — full of manhood, womanhood, infancy!
Full of common employments — full of grain and trees.

O for the voices of animals — O for the swiftness
and balance of fishes!
O for the dropping of raindrops in a song!
O for the sunshine and motion of waves in a song!

O the joy of my spirit — it is uncaged — it darts like lightning!
It is not enough to have this globe or a certain time,
I will have thousands of globes and all time.

Tags:
Happy poem (/tags/happy-poem) Leaves of Grass (/tags/leaves-of-grass) Poems about professions (/tags/poems-about-professions) Life (/tags/life) Love of life (/tags/love-of-life) Poems about nature (/tags/poems-about-nature) Wildlife (/tags/wildlife) Joy of life (/tags/joy-of-life) Death (/tags/death)

Lines Written in an Album, at Malta. (/poems/lord-george-gordon-byron-lines-written-in-an-album-at-malta)

Lord George Gordon Byron (/authors/lord-byron)

1.
As o'er the cold sepulchral stone
Some name arrests the passer-by;
Thus, when thou view'st this page alone,
May *mine* attract thy pensive eye!

2.
And when by thee that name is read,
Perchance in some succeeding year,
Reflect on *me* as on the dead,
And think my *Heart* is buried here.

Tags:
Letter to a woman (/tags/letter-to-a-woman) English poem about love (/tags/english-poem-about-love)

The Dream (/poems/lord-george-gordon-byron-the-dream)

Lord George Gordon Byron (/authors/lord-byron)

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Tags:
Poems about dreams (/tags/poems-about-dreams) Dreaming (/tags/dreaming) Poems about sleep (/tags/poems-about-sleep) Poems about death (/tags/poems-about-death) Universe (/tags/universe) Poems about pain (/tags/poems-about-pain)

Not Waving but Drowning (/poems/stevie-smith-not-waving-but-drowning)

Stevie Smith (/authors/stevie-smith)

Nobody heard him, the dead man,
But still he lay moaning:
I was much further out than you thought
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking
And now he' s dead
It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way.
They said.

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always
(Still the dead one lay moaning)
I was much too far out all my life
And not waving but drowning.

Tags:
Living (/tags/living) Disappointment & Failure (/tags/disappointment-failure) Death (/tags/death) Social commentaries (/tags/social-commentaries) England (/tags/england) Uncategorized (/tags/uncategorized)